



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
District of Vermont

United States Courthouse and Federal Building  
Post Office Box 10  
Rutland, Vermont 05702-0010

(802) 773-0231  
Fax: (802) 773-0214

December 16, 2002

To All Law Enforcement Officers

Re: Anti-Terrorism Efforts in Vermont

I am writing to follow up with you about a matter of great importance to the people of the State of Vermont and to the nation: terrorism. As you well know, combating the menace of terrorism has predominated our work these past fifteen months, and it has become increasingly clear that Vermont, by virtue of its geographic location, can play a crucial role in this country's ability to deal with it.

The Anti-Terrorism Task Force ("ATTF") here in Vermont has been actively involved in bringing together some 40 law enforcement agencies from the surrounding region and Canada to coordinate various efforts. Over the course of the past few months, working groups have been actively meeting to address intelligence sharing, information technology, training and border issues. The contributions of the various agencies have been tremendous, and there is a great deal of thought and expertise being brought to bear on how we can contribute to solving this problem. When you are able, please look at the ATTF's website at [http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/vt/attf/attf\\_home.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/vt/attf/attf_home.htm).

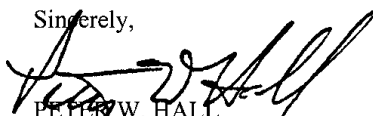
Notwithstanding our recent efforts, we all believe there is more that we can be doing. Because you are on the front line of law enforcement, I want to encourage you to make aggressive use of all law enforcement tools that are available to you in the fight against terrorism. In this vein, I ask that when your agency becomes aware of an event that you suspect is terrorism-related and may be in violation of state law, please consider also whether there may be a federal violation. For example: Was a social security number fraudulently obtained or used? Were the U.S. mails used in some fashion that may constitute postal fraud? Did the individual make a false statement on federal paperwork? Was the person involved in identity fraud? Were there any suspicious financial transactions? Did the person travel in interstate commerce during the course of some criminal activity? That is, there are a number of federal crimes that do not necessarily have obvious comparable state charges but which may also apply to an event. By being aware of and prepared to use the full range of charging options available to address suspected terrorist activity, together we can most effectively interdict and disrupt that activity.

I encourage you to contact our office whenever you think you might have a case or issue that could benefit from a federal perspective. Please feel free to contact Assistant U.S. Attorney Gary Shattuck, the Anti-Terrorism Coordinator for Vermont, at any time (Rutland office: 802-773-0231 or cell phone: 802-345-6776).

Finally, I am happy to provide you with the enclosed literature assembled by the ATTF describing a number of the agencies and the resources that are available. Please distribute it within your organization.

In this time of year when we celebrate peace and wish each other well for the upcoming year, I thank you for your on-going assistance in addressing this most important issue.

Sincerely,

  
PETER W. HALL  
United States Attorney